



## REQUEST FOR COUNCIL ACTION

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**MEETING DATE:** April 17, 2023

**PREPARED BY:** John Hagen, PE, PTOE, Transportation Operations Engineer

**AGENDA ITEM:** Hwy 610 Extension (City Project No. 19-24): Wetland Mitigation Credits

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### PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

Council has previously supported the Hwy 610 Extension from TH 610 to connect with CSAH 30, provided funding for the completion of the necessary updates to the environmental documents and the final design, and has made state and federal requests for funding.

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### RECOMMENDED COUNCIL ACTION:

Motion to approve the proposed wetland mitigation solution for the Hwy 610 Extension Project (City Project No. 19-24) that includes the purchase of the required 6.88 acres of wetland mitigation credits at a total cost of \$809,737.33.

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### COMMENTS:

The Hwy 610 Extension is a new roadway connection from TH 610 to CSAH 30. The proposed connection would transition TH 610 from a limited access highway to a four-lane divided highway west of I-94. The project would construct additional interchange ramps, traffic signals, trails, and bridges. CSAH 30 would be realigned and local road connections to the proposed Hwy 610 Extension would be constructed at Lawndale Lane, Garland Avenue, and 101st Avenue. The project also includes construction of stormwater ponds at the intersection of the Hwy 610 Extension / CSAH 30, CSAH 30 / Lawndale Lane, the southwest and northeast quadrants of the I-94 ramps at the Hwy 610 Extension, and at the westbound TH 610 ramp to I-94 westbound.

Wetland impacts are generally associated with new road construction and have been avoided and minimized to the extent practicable by State and Federal law.

The project proposes 3.44 acres of permanent wetland impact requiring 6.88 acres of wetland mitigation. The impacted wetlands within the Hwy 610 Extension project area are shown in Attachment A. The city's engineering design consultant, SRF Consulting Group, Inc., worked with the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), Hennepin County, and the Wetland Credit Agency, LLC to identify available wetland banks within the region that could satisfy the almost 7 acres of required wetland mitigation. The proposed wetland mitigation solution is summarized in the attached Wetland Credit Reservation and the Purchase Agreements, and includes the purchase of wetland credits from the following three State approved wetland banks:

- 3.4223 acres of wetlands in the South Fork Crow River Watershed in McCleod County
- 3.4223 acres of wetlands in the Mississippi River (metro) Watershed in Anoka County
- 0.0354 acres of wetlands in South Fork Crow River Watershed in Hennepin County

The total cost associated with the purchase of the required 6.88 acres of wetland mitigation credits is \$809,737.33 and includes \$15,782.72 in State Withdrawal and Easement Stewardship fees. These wetland credit fees are due on or before the July 1, 2023 closing date of the wetland credit purchase.

It is recommended that the Council approves the proposed wetland mitigation solution for the Hwy 610 Extension Project (City Project No. 19-24) that includes the purchase of the required 6.88 acres of wetland mitigation credits at a total cost of \$809,737.33.

The funding source for the purchase of the wetland mitigation credits will initially be the city's trunk transportation fund; with partial reimbursements from previously secured project funding from MnDOT and the State of Minnesota Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) Legislative Earmark the State of Minnesota awarded the City in 2020.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Attachment A: Wetland Impacts

Attachment B: Wetland Credit Reservation Agreement

Attachment C: Purchase Agreement for Wetland Banking Credits